

## Message

**From:** regionalpress [regionalpress@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 4/9/2018 11:57:38 AM  
**To:** Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: Daily News Clips, Monday, April 9, 2018

**From:** Kristen Conroy  
**Sent:** Monday, April 9, 2018 11:57:31 AM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik  
**To:** regionalpress  
**Subject:** Daily News Clips, Monday, April 9, 2018



### Print/Online News

#### Senator Hassan Statement on EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt

**4-traders** | 04/06/2018 (2 days, 11 hours ago)

April 06, 2018 WASHINGTON - Senator Maggie Hassan released the following statement today on EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt: 'We...

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**The Berkshire Eagle Online** | 04/08/2018 (10 hours, 9 minutes ago)

...treatment and water infrastructure upgrades down the road without the **Environmental Protection Agency** taking a keen interest...

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#### Kelly told Trump to dismiss Pruitt over ethics issues

**The Boston Globe** | 04/06/2018 (2 days, 8 hours ago)

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...staff, told President Trump last week that Scott Pruitt, the head of the **Environmental Protection Agency**, should go amid allegations of...

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**Follow Ford's lead, reject fuel standards rollback****The Boston Globe** | 04/08/2018 (8 hours, 57 minutes ago)

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*...a station wagon to the Trump distraction du jour: the announcement by **Environmental Protection Agency** administrator Scott Pruitt of a...*

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**Money to clean Vermont's watersheds****Burlington Free Press** | 04/07/2018 (1 day, 8 hours ago)

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*...which it dumps into, are impaired for nitrogen and are subject to an U.S. **EPA** cleanup plan (known as a TMDL). Thankfully the Vermont...*

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Share: **Sen. Collins says Pruitt wrong choice to head EPA****Central Maine Today Media** | 04/08/2018 (10 hours, 21 minutes ago)*...told CNN's Jake Tapper that Scott Pruitt was the wrong choice to head the **Environmental Protection Agency**. Pruitt has come...*Share:     **We need Clean Power Plan****Concord Monitor Online** | 04/06/2018 (3 days, 2 hours ago)*...the Clean Power Plan would dismantle America's only federal limits on **carbon** pollution from power plants, worsen climate...*

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### With each passing day, things look a little worse for Planet Earth

**Concord Monitor Online** | 04/07/2018 (2 days, 4 hours ago)

*...poisoning our children and ourselves at the altar of greed. Where is the **EPA** when we need it? There is hope. After the human footprint is...*

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### PFAS health study can deliver answers

**Foster's Daily Democrat Online** | 04/07/2018 (1 day, 10 hours ago)

*...believe a treatment system is necessary in Berry's Brook. Asked if the **EPA** needs to be more aggressive at Coakley dealing with the...*

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### \$1.5 Million State Grant Slated For Newington Spill Cleanup

**Hartford Courant Online** | 04/06/2018 (2 days, 11 hours ago)

*...is expected to get \$1,5 million from the state to help cleanup a major **diesel** fuel spill at the town's bus garage. A \$1.5 million grant to...*

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### Rutland businesses react to PFAS finding

**Mychamplainvalley.com** | 04/07/2018 (2 days, 7 hours ago)

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### 3 GOP senators voice concern about EPA head Scott Pruitt's conduct

**The New Hampshire Union Leader** | 04/08/2018 (8 hours, 57 minutes ago)

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*...-- Three Republican senators expressed concern Sunday about embattled **Environmental Protection Agency** Administrator Scott Pruitt, amid...*

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### 3 In R.i. Delegation Call For Pruitt's Removal

**The Providence Journal** | 04/06/2018 (2 days, 8 hours ago)

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*...the resignation or the firing of Scott Pruitt, the administrator of the **Environmental Protection Agency**, who has been accused of unethical...*

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### COLLINS: PRUITT NOT FIT FOR EPA "ON POLICY GROUNDS ALONE"

**States News Service** | 04/07/2018 (1 day, 8 hours ago)

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*...policy grounds alone, I think Scott Pruitt is the wrong person to head the **EPA**." Meanwhile, GOP Senator Lindsey Graham raised his own...*

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## Kelly told Trump to dismiss Pruitt over ethics issues

*The Boston Globe* | 04/06/2018

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BODY Washington fliers poked fun at Scott Pruitt, with mock numbers to call for condo deals.

NEW YORK — John F. Kelly, the White House chief of staff, told President Trump last week that Scott Pruitt, the head of the **Environmental Protection Agency**, should go amid allegations of ethical infractions and spending irregularities, according to two officials briefed about the conversation.

But Trump, who is personally fond of Pruitt and sees him as a crucial ally in his effort to roll back environmental protections, has resisted firing him. He disregarded warnings that the drumbeat of negative headlines has grown unsustainable, and that more embarrassing revelations could surface.

White House officials said Friday that Trump continues to believe that Pruitt has been effective in his role, and stressed that it was up to him alone to decide his future.

"No one other than the president has the authority to hire and fire," Sarah Huckabee Sanders the White House press secretary, told reporters. "The president feels that the administrator has done a good job at **EPA**."

She said the White House, which has been conducting an internal investigation into Pruitt's conduct, was "continuing to review any of the concerns that we have."

Earlier, in a brief interview, Sanders said Pruitt's success in achieving items on the president's agenda — including rolling back a large number of environmental regulations — may weigh heavily as a counterbalance to allegations that he misused taxpayer dollars.

Pruitt has been dogged by a series of scandals in recent weeks, including revelations that he rented a condominium co-owned by the wife of an energy lobbyist for \$50 per night; and that he spent more than \$100,000 in taxpayer-funded first-class travel, which the **EPA** has argued was necessary because of security concerns.

Pruitt also spent millions in taxpayer funds on unprecedented security precautions that included a full-time detail of 20 armed officers, the Associated Press reported, citing agency sources and documents.

Pruitt allegedly sidelined or demoted at least five high-ranking **EPA** employees who had raised questions about his spending.

"I think he's done a fantastic job at **EPA**," Trump told reporters Thursday as he returned to Washington from an event in West Virginia. "I think he'll be fine."

In interviews in recent days with conservative media outlets including Fox News and the Washington Examiner, Pruitt rejected accusations that his actions were unethical.

In a separate development, Trump's nomination of CIA director Mike Pompeo to replace Rex Tillerson as secretary of state is being challenged by an array of critics over what they say is Pompeo's record of anti-Muslim remarks and ties to anti-Islam groups.

American Muslims, Jews, civil rights groups like the American Civil Liberties Union, and former State Department officials are among those pushing senators on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to take a closer look, even though Pompeo appears on track to be easily confirmed.

Nearly two months after the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013, Pompeo, then a representative from Kansas, took to the floor of the House to denounce American Muslim leaders for what he called their "silence" in response to the heinous terrorist attack.

"Silence has made these Islamic leaders across America potentially complicit in these acts," Pompeo said.

But more than half a dozen American Muslim groups had issued statements condemning the bombing within hours of the attack. In the days following, Muslim groups organized press conferences, blood drives, and prayer vigils.

Pompeo was told that he was wrong, but did not apologize or respond to Muslim groups stung by his remarks.

"My concern is that Mr. Pompeo has left a trail of horrific, inaccurate, bigoted statements, and associations vis-à-vis Muslims around the world," said Shaun Casey, a former State Department official in the Obama administration.

Islamic and Jewish groups have raised similar concerns about John R. Bolton, Trump's choice for national security adviser and a former ambassador to the United Nations.

Bolton and Pompeo have ties to individuals and groups that regard Islam not so much as a religion, but as a political ideology that is infiltrating the United States and other Western countries with the goal of imposing Muslim law.

In a separate matter Friday, Arizona and Texas announced that they would send 400 National Guard members to the US-Mexico border by next week in response to Trump's call for troops to fight drug trafficking and illegal immigration.

The total so far remains well short of the 2,000 to 4,000 National Guard members that Trump told reporters he wants to send. The governors of Montana, Nevada, and Oregon said they oppose a plan by Trump to use National Guard troops to shore up security at the nation's borders.

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## Follow Ford's lead, reject fuel standards rollback

*The Boston Globe* | 04/08/2018

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**BODY**Let's put aside for a moment that some of us who breathe air might want to limit the amount of toxins in our daily oxygen intake, or that the fossil fuel supply is actually finite, or even, heaven forbid, that climate change is real and we should probably do what we can to save the earth as we know it. If you're running a major corporation that sells high-end products to market-driven consumers, do you really want to tether your business plan to the whims of an administration that rules by tweet and encourages endless conflict?

That's something the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers might consider after hitching a station wagon to the Trump distraction du jour: the announcement by **Environmental Protection Agency** administrator Scott Pruitt of a rollback of fuel emissions standards adopted during the Obama Administration.

The standards date back to 2011, when automakers agreed to a fleet-wide average fuel efficiency of 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025 (affecting 2022-2025 model-year vehicles). In its last days in January 2017, Obama's **EPA** performed a Midterm Evaluation (MTE) further codifying the standards.

Directed by Trump, Pruitt said the departing Obama Administration "short-circuited the MTE process" and that the standards "didn't comport with reality, and set the standards too high."

In the simple-minded thinking that all regulation is inherently antibusiness, this would seem to be good news for automakers, who now could be relieved from the costly R&D of producing vehicles that pollute less. Buttressing that is a trend in recent years of consumers buying fewer fuel-efficient cars in favor of small trucks and other guzzlers, thanks to low gas prices.

The alliance — which includes among its 12 members GM, Ford, Toyota, and Volkswagen — cited that buying pattern in a statement supporting Pruitt's action, saying, "Consumer research shows that the monthly payment is the top concern when car-shopping," and not fuel efficiency.

But not all businesses think in such black-and-white terms. In a more nuanced response, Ford said, "We support increasing clean car standards through 2025 and are not asking for a rollback. We want one set of standards nationally, along with additional flexibility to help us provide more affordable options for our customers."

Even if Trump's **EPA** succeeds in abandoning the standards, the higher rules will still be in effect in California and 13 other states, including Massachusetts, that follow its lead. Automakers have no interest in producing one set of cars for 37 states and another for the rest, let alone the rest of the world. The rules for California, the largest single market, would prevail. Expect then a legal battle between the administration and the states, likely landing in the Supreme Court before it's sorted out.

Even on a fast track, that could take years, certainly past this fall's midterm elections, which could change the political complexion of Congress and begin to put a roadblock on Trump's **EPA**. There are also other unforeseen forces, such as the economic effects of whatever trade war the president might tweet into existence, or less dramatic fluctuations, like the seasonal hike in gas prices after Memorial Day. If a gas-gouged public suddenly starts prioritizing fuel efficiency, manufacturers won't get very far trying to assure them that what they really want are cheaper sticker prices and low monthly payments.

The noise from the **EPA** is just the latest chaos from a president who thrives on discord, calling it unpredictability that proves he's smart and the greatest world leader history has ever known. But no sane business would base its marketing plan on such a wrongheaded notion, especially when the rest of the world is committed to abating greenhouse gases (yes, the entire rest of the world; the other holdout, Syria, joined last fall).

In recent months, corporate America has shown responsibility in many areas where the government has not, such as with so-called bathroom bills and gun control. Automakers hailing the **EPA's** latest attack on the environment it's supposed to protect might follow Ford, which is headed down the right road.

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## Money to clean Vermont's watersheds

**Burlington Free Press** | 04/07/2018

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I live in Pomfret and work out of my home for the Connecticut River Conservancy, a non-profit, membership-based organization whose motto is Clean Water, Healthy Habitat, Thriving Communities.

The Connecticut River and its tributaries have pressing clean water issues, like every other watershed in Vermont, that need to be addressed. The river and the Long Island Sound, which it dumps into, are impaired for nitrogen and are subject to an U.S. **EPA** cleanup plan (known as a TMDL).

Thankfully the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources has spent time and money to develop project lists to address impaired waters for each of the state's watershed basins. There are roughly 4,000 clean water projects listed in the agency's database that are just waiting to be funded. Everything from stormwater to agriculture projects, and from dam removals to river restoration projects.

But we cannot fix the problems and reduce the number of impaired waters without long-term funding from the Legislature and governor. Our towns need help to be able to invest the millions of dollars necessary to modernize their sewage treatment plants and sewer lines to reduce or eliminate overflows. Our farms, ski areas, golf courses and breweries need help to ensure they successfully implement conservation practices, such as planting riparian buffers, which reduce runoff so less nitrogen and other pollutants enter our rivers.

New clean water funding from the state would also help draw down additional dollars from other sources - including federal and private foundation grants. We can effectively double our money to implement these clean water projects if the state funding is in place.

The clean water projects listed in the database will result in real water quality benefits, and help all of our Vermont waters meet the required "boatable, fishable and swimmable" water quality standard. These projects also have the added bonus of boosting our local economies.

Just last year, the Connecticut River Conservancy paid out \$580,000 to 18 Vermont businesses to help us implement clean water projects. Engineers and nurseries as well as forestry, trucking and construction companies all benefited from clean water funding.

The 17 towns where those 18 businesses are located include Brattleboro, Burlington, Chelsea, Colchester, Corinth, East Burke, East Dorset, Island Pond, Jeffersonville, Lowell, Lyndonville, Newark, Randolph, South Royalton, South Ryegate, Waterbury and Williston.

A robust, long-term clean water funding plan will mean more Vermont businesses being put to work to help clean up the state's waters. We think that is a win-win for our rivers and our communities.

All of us Vermont taxpayers should urge the Legislature and governor to make the long-term investment necessary to clean up all of the state's impaired waters. Action is needed this session because the current funding runs out next year. No more studies, no more delays. Four thousand projects are ready. We are ready.

Ron Rhodes lives in Pomfret.

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### 3 GOP senators voice concern about EPA head Scott Pruitt's conduct

*The New Hampshire Union Leader* | 04/08/2018

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WASHINGTON -- Three Republican senators expressed concern Sunday about embattled **Environmental Protection Agency** Administrator Scott Pruitt, amid growing scrutiny over his spending and management practices.

Sens. John Neely Kennedy of Louisiana, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Susan Collins of Maine voiced worry about Pruitt's conduct in interviews on morning television talks shows. Their comments came just hours after President Donald Trump defended Pruitt, writing on Twitter that he was doing "a great job."

Sen. Mike Rounds, R-S.D., also defended the **EPA** head. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin declined to comment on Pruitt's situation but said he was certain that the President had reviewed it.



The sharpest Republican criticism came from Kennedy, who said Pruitt ought to hold a "full-blown press conference" to address the criticism he has received.

"Stop leading with your chin," Kennedy said in an interview with CBS' "Face the Nation." "Now these are unforced errors. They are stupid. There are a lot of problems we can't solve. But you can behave. I don't mean to denigrate Mr. Pruitt, but doggone it, he represents the President of the United States, and it is hurting his boss and it needs to stop."

Pruitt has come under the spotlight in recent weeks for decisions executed during his tenure about that have raised ethics questions. These include his \$50-a-night rental from a lobbyist last year, large raises for two top advisers despite a lack of White House approval and a security detail that has required far more resources than his predecessors needed.

Graham said that Pruitt has "done a good job" but that he is waiting to see what a congressional oversight panel has to say. In an appearance on ABC's "This Week With George Stephanopoulos," Graham singled out reports about Pruitt's rental.

"The bottom line -- this doesn't look good," the senator said.

Collins, who was the only Republican senator to vote against confirming Pruitt, said she believes that his policy decisions have validated that vote and that the ethics questions he is facing don't help him.

"This daily drip of accusations of excessive spending and ethical violations serve to further distract the agency from accomplishing its very important mission," Collins said on CNN's "State of the Union."

On Saturday night, Trump issued a tweet stating: "While Security spending was somewhat more than his predecessor, Scott Pruitt has received death threats because of his bold actions at **EPA**. Record clean Air & Water while saving USA Billions of Dollars. Rent was about market rate, travel expenses OK. Scott is doing a great job!"

Rounds echoed Trump's tweet, saying Pruitt is saving taxpayer money by shrinking the activities of the agency and rolling back Obama-era regulations. He said that some of the news coverage of Pruitt's activities may be "overblown" and that the administrator's critics "nitpick little things."

"The reason why all of the emphasis right now is on Mr. Pruitt is because he is executing these policies," Rounds said on NBC's "Meet the Press." And they're not real popular policies with a lot of people. But he is executing the policies that this president said he would put in place."

On "Face the Nation," Mnuchin said, "as it relates to the specifics of Scott's situation, I can't comment on them, but I'm sure the President has reviewed it." He pointed to Trump's comment and said Pruitt has made "tremendous progress" at the **EPA**.

Shake-ups in the Trump administration have given the Senate a slate of nominees to confirm at a time when many senators have begun pivoting to the midterm elections. Senate Republican leaders are already facing potentially difficult fights to confirm Mike Pompeo as secretary of state, Rear Adm. Ronny L. Jackson as secretary of veterans affairs and Gina Haspel as CIA director.

"There's so many positions open right now in the administration, and there's so many weeks left before we get to the midterm elections," Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, D-Md., said on "Face The Nation." "I think it's going to be a challenge for us to get Cabinet-level positions confirmed, particularly one at **EPA**."

Asked whether Pruitt should be fired, Cardin, like other lawmakers, said, "That's a decision that the President is going to have to make."

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### 3 In R.i. Delegation Call For Pruitt's Removal

*The Providence Journal* | 04/06/2018

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U.S. Sen. Jack Reed, and U.S. Representatives David Cicilline and James Langevin on Friday called for either the resignation or the firing of Scott Pruitt, the administrator of the **Environmental Protection Agency**, who has been accused of unethical conduct.

Pruitt faces allegations ranging from misuse of taxpayer money, to benefiting from a housing deal negotiated with the wife of an energy lobbyist. "Administrator Pruitt's legacy will be a stain on the Agency and our land, waters and air, and it is time for him to go," Langevin said in a statement that called for Pruitt's resignation.

"The series of ethical lapses that are currently the subject of federal investigation clearly disqualify him from continuing in his current position, and he must either resign or be removed."

Reed called for Pruitt's firing, noting that he was urging the administrator's termination just a day after President Donald Trump tweeted that Pruitt is doing a "great job."

Reed specifically accused Pruitt of taking costly private and first-class flights and other "extravagance" with taxpayer money. He also cited a "sweetheart housing deal from the wife of an energy lobbyist."

Cicilline helped lead a group of more than four dozen House Democrats who signed a letter calling for Pruitt's resignation or firing.

The letter cites a raft of allegations, accusing the administrator of a wide range of abuses and ethical lapses, from the housing deal to excessive spending on official business to questionable hires and efforts to conceal his administration from public oversight.

"Scott Pruitt's unethical behavior, wasteful use of taxpayer money, and his efforts to undermine the **EPA's** core mission to protect our environment and public health demand an appropriate response," says the letter.

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## **COLLINS: PRUITT NOT FIT FOR EPA "ON POLICY GROUNDS ALONE"**

**States News Service** | 04/07/2018

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The following information was released by the Sierra Club:

GOP Senator Susan Collins made clear on CNN Sunday that Scott Pruitt must go, saying "On policy grounds alone, I think Scott Pruitt is the wrong person to head the **EPA**."

Meanwhile, GOP Senator Lindsey Graham raised his own concerns about Pruitt on the Sunday shows, saying "The one thing I can say, if you're the **EPA** administrator and two lobbyists change the locks, you've got a problem. The bottom line is this doesn't look good."

GOP Sen. John Kennedy said Pruitt should "do a full blown press conference," making clear reference to Pruitt's pattern of hiding from the mainstream press, particularly when attempting to defend his ongoing series of extraordinary scandals.

As of now, three House Republicans and counting have called for Pruitt's resignation. House Oversight Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy said of Pruitt "I don't have a lot of patience for that kind of stuff," and "I'm not sure he's going to make it that long. It gets worse every time there's a report in the news." Gowdy has reportedly begun an investigation into Pruitt's condo scandal and other shady dealing.

Meanwhile, amidst an avalanche of Scott Pruitt scandals, the Senate is about to vote on Pruitt's choice to be #2 at the agency. Mitch McConnell filed cloture on Andrew Wheeler just before leaving town for the Congressional recess, yet Wheeler is besieged by his own record of serving as a paid lobbyist for corporate polluters; the fact he would enter the administration in violation of Trump's own "ethics" Executive Order; past history of paid industry sponsored junkets; and a campaign finance scandal under which he raised funds for committee members who voted on him months after he was already the presumptive nominee.

In Response, Sierra Club Senior Director of Federal Policy John Coequyt Released the Following Statement:

**"Senator Collins** is right: Scott Pruitt is unfit to lead the **EPA** based solely on his dangerous policies, which let corporate polluters cause harm to our families as he attempts to gut life-saving clean air and clean water safeguards. Yet, Pruitt's disgraceful scandals, misuse of taxpayer funds, and record of taking corrupt favors and marching orders from lobbyists provides clear evidence that any Senator who cares about accountability, ethics, and transparency should demand he be fired immediately

"Meanwhile, the last thing the Senate should do is enable the dangerously corrupt Scott Pruitt any further by rushing through his hand-picked deputy, coal lobbyist Andrew Wheeler, a person who is paid to advance the exact same policies as Pruitt and who would bring a similar history of scandal and corruption to the **EPA**."

About the Sierra Club

The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3 million members and supporters. In addition to helping people from all backgrounds explore nature and our outdoor heritage, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action.

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